

## **Health Care Reform Alert: Latest Washington Assault Threatens Medicare**

*Monday, December 7, 2009*

By now it should come as no surprise that nothing and no one is off limits when it comes to attempts by some in Washington to impose a full scale government takeover of our health care system.

The latest of these is an effort to rob Medicare of nearly half a trillion dollars in order to create a \$2.5 trillion new entitlement in the Reid health care bill. This effort would directly reduce the Medicare benefits that millions of seniors depend on.

Democrats voted on Thursday to keep nearly \$500 billion in cuts to Medicare in the Reid Health Care bill. This vote means that the 2.8 million Texas seniors enrolled in the program will see their access to care jeopardized in hospitals, nursing homes, and home health programs across the state. In addition, the half a million Texans enrolled in Medicare Advantage will see an immediate reduction in benefits they already have. On average, Medicare Advantage coverage means \$160 a month in better benefits like vision and dental care. After this week's vote, the Reid bill will now cut that by nearly 75%, to an average of just \$49 a month.

I continue to be amazed at the idea that Washington can cut nearly half a trillion from the Medicare program, which is already projected to go insolvent by 2017, to create a \$2.5 trillion new entitlement. This would come at the direct expense of taxpayers and seniors. Targeting our seniors' health coverage to create an unsustainable new entitlement is unacceptable.

It also breaks one of the President's original health care reform promises to protect and preserve Medicare. And the broken promises in the Reid bill don't stop there. Yesterday on the Senate floor I outlined how the 2,074 page Reid health care bill fails to deliver on a number of President Obama's "solemn promises" to the American people, including ensuring a transparent process, lowering health care costs, and preventing "one dime" from being added to Washington's deficit. To read more on how the Reid bill breaks the President's promises for health care reform, click [here](#).

Yesterday I also discussed the health care reform debate on Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace. If you missed it, you can watch a clip from the interview by clicking on the link below.

I want to hear your thoughts on this debate and the false claims Democrats are making about their health care proposals. Join the dialogue live now on my Facebook or Twitter pages, which I personally monitor and update throughout the day: [www.facebook.com/Sen.JohnCornyn](http://www.facebook.com/Sen.JohnCornyn) or <http://twitter.com/JohnCornyn>

### **Links**

VIDEO: [Sen. Cornyn discusses health care debate on Fox News Sunday.](#)

VIDEO: [Sen. Cornyn discusses President Obama's broken promises on Health Care on Senate floor.](#)

VIDEO: [Sen. Cornyn discusses Reid bill on the Senate floor.](#)

VIDEO: [Sen. Cornyn discusses Reid bill on the Senate floor.](#)

WEB: [My Health Care Reform Headquarters Page.](#)



*Senator John Cornyn wants to keep Texans informed and engaged as the debate on health care reform moves forward in Washington. Please visit [www.cornyn.senate.gov](http://www.cornyn.senate.gov), [www.facebook.com/Sen.JohnCornyn](http://www.facebook.com/Sen.JohnCornyn), or <http://twitter.com/JohnCornyn> to share your ideas for how best to reform our health care system and to recommend others who might want to join the dialogue by receiving these Health Care Reform Alerts.*